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II. Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph from page 1, lines 11-26 of the originally filed application (Par. [0002] of Pub. No. US 2004/0117060), with the following amended paragraph:

Generally, an aspect of the inventive technology relates to an identification system for accurately and adequately identifying events or materials. Another aspect relates generally to new methods and apparatus relative to more efficient generation of a custody and control form. Specifically, at least one embodiment of the inventive technology focuses on an encrypted, character-based identification information item that is based on facts related to the event, substance, or object that it is intended to uniquely represent and thereby identify. At least one embodiment of the custody and control form aspect of the apparatus focuses on computerized generation of a specimen specific custody and control form through electronic population of at least a majority of the specimen specific custody and control form upon input of a certain number of characters. Yet another aspect of the inventive technology generally relates to an efficiency-enhanced process for assigning to individuals that are to undergo an off-site specialized procedure ~~for assigning to individuals that are to undergo a specialized procedure~~ (e.g., a sample collection for drug testing by, e.g., a toxicology lab, or a sample collected for clinical testing by a clinical lab) the geographically most proximate site capable of performing this procedure. In a preferred embodiment, this novel method utilizes commercially available mapping software.

Please replace the paragraph from page 1, line 28, to page 2, line 9 of the originally filed application (Par. [0003] of Pub. No. US 2004/0117060), with the following amended paragraph:

Substance abuse by employees is and has been a problem for employers for many years. It compromises employee productivity, lowers workplace morale, impairs job performance, and decreases job-site safety, among having other effects, resulting in perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars of ~~loses for~~ losses for employers worldwide.

Even employees who are not under the influence of a drug at work, but perhaps use only during weekends or after work, may not be as productive, alert, safe or effective employees as they would be otherwise. The desire to abate the ill-effects of drug use by certain groups of people (as but a few examples, employees, athletes, students and inmates) has been known for some time. Indeed, employers and others have responded to this problem with substance abuse testing of employees in order to abate the ill-effects of substance abuse. Such efforts have become key in assuring or at least improving compliance by individuals in a workplace or other setting with relevant substance abuse policies, laws or regulations to which the individuals, employees and/or workplace are subjected.

Please replace the paragraph from page 2, line 11 to page 3, line 8 of the originally filed application (Par. [0004] of Pub. No. US 2004/0117060), with the following amended paragraph:

Generally, such compliance verification effort involves collection of a specimen (e.g., urine, blood, hair, tissue, oral fluid, as but a few examples) which, when tested properly, may indicate prior use by the individual tested of the target substance(s) (i.e., that substance, such as cocaine, e.g., whose use would violate an applicable policy, law or regulation). This collection occurs at a collection site, which, although typically a specialized facility that is physically separate from the individual's designated location (e.g., a factory, school, prison, or office, as but a few examples), may be located at the individual's designated location (onsite). Again, it should be understood that it is not only employers that might sponsor testing of individuals – indeed, any organization or entity, generally known as a sponsoring entity, might initiate testing of individuals affiliated with it for prior substance abuse or drug testing. An additional step involves analytical specimen testing in, e.g., a laboratory or, sometimes, onsite (at the collection site such as the workplace, e.g.). This testing typically involves the use of specially adapted analytical equipment; the test result may be positive or negative, or where an onsite testing kit is used, negative or non-negative. Often, but not always, in order to assure that a positive or non-negative result indicates use of a drug or substance in

violation of a law, regulation or policy, a medical review officer may conduct a review or investigation (again, to assure that the use is not a legal, legitimate or approved use). Such medical review is often used in the case where a positive result is found, but where a positive result is found for a prospective new employee (before employment is commenced or any agreement to do so is met), the medical review process may be foregone and the prospective new hire simply not hired. Similarly, where a test kit is used (e.g., an on-site test kit) for a prospective new hire before a more reliable laboratory test is performed, a test kit result of non-negative may cause the sponsoring entity (the employer, e.g.) to simply forego the laboratory test and simply not hire the prospective new hire. Relevant in this regard is the fact that one of the purposes of the medical review process is to improve or assure the integrity of the testing. Another step taken to assure the integrity of the test result and specifically to improve the likelihood that a test or testing process will withstand a legal challenge by, e.g., a tested individual whose employment has been terminated due to a positive result, is the use of a custody and control forms (also referred to as a chain of custody form).

It is of note that support for the amendment indicated in the above replacement paragraph is found on page 2 at lines 20-21, as follows: "An additional step involves analytical specimen testing in, e.g., a laboratory or, sometimes, onsite (at the collection site such as the workplace, e.g.)."

Please replace the paragraph from page 17, lines 24-28 of the originally filed application (Par. [0045] of Pub. No. US 2004/0117060), with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 Exhibit B shows a sample custody and control form. The custody and control form may mirror the federally mandated form used in collections for those employees under the regulations of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and may be used for DOT-mandated tests and testing. This form may also be used for Non-DOT purposes and may be identified as a non-regulated collection in those situations.

Please replace the paragraph from page 20, lines 1-8 of the originally filed application (Par. [0053] of Pub. No. US 2004/0117060), with the following amended paragraph:

At least one embodiment of the invention may include an internet-based process that includes what may be termed a results query functionality. More specifically, this feature may enable an authorized entity to specify certain parameters in order to generate a report that summarizes ~~factual data~~ factual data regarding testing and results according to those parameters. For example, a client may want to know the number of positive results for all donors employed by a certain company tested in a certain geographical area during calendar year 2000. The results query feature could be used to generate such information in the form of an MIS report, e.g.

Please replace the paragraph from page 13, line 25; p. 26, l. 10 of the originally filed application (Par. [0065] of the Pub. No. US 2004/0117060), with the following amended paragraph:

The inventive technology relative to a novel identification information item is, however, not limited to identification of specimens only – it ~~[[is]]~~ also covers a more broadly applicable element identification method. In at least one embodiment of a method mode of the inventive technology, an element associated entity is identified with an entity identification information item; a time-related identifier (that identifies a time related in any manner to the element) is adequately specified; the entity identification information item and the time-related identifier are associated, in response to which (e.g., upon whose performance) a unique element identification information item is generated. The element may be a specific event (e.g., the commission of a crime, the performance of a hired service, or a payment, as but three examples), a specific substance (a specimen, which term itself includes any piece of evidence, or collected matter to be analyzed such as blood or soil, as but a few examples), or a specific object (a piece of evidence or a purchased product, as but two examples), while the entity may be, e.g., a person, or organization (including, e.g., a business, a sports team, a non-profit organization, and a government organization) as but a few examples. The time-related identifier may be an

event related time, such as the time of occurrence of an event, this event in some manner related to or associated with the element (as but two examples, a gathering of a substance; and the time of purchase of the element, a product). Thus, the element identification method may be a specific event identification method, a specific substance identification method, or a specific object identification method; the element associated entity may be a specific event associated entity, a specific substance associated entity, or a specific object associated entity, and the unique element identification information item may be a unique event identification information item, a unique substance identification information item, or a unique object identification information item. Additionally, the element associated entity may be a ~~element~~ an element associated person or organization, and the entity identification information item may be a person identification information item or an organization identification information item. The disclosure provided herein, relative to not immediately discernible and encrypted specimen identification information items (both method and apparatus), is applicable also to the element identification method and the element identification apparatus, so as to provide adequate support for both.